

## Message Text

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 221609Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8995

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5167

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PLOS TPHY TGEN AGS NO UR SV

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON DIVISION OF  
BARENTS SEA SHELF

REF: (A) OSLO 4976 (B) OSLO 5158

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE  
STRESSED IN NOVEMBER 21 MEETING WITH DCM (REF B)  
THAT NORWEGIAN DELEGATION WHICH LEAVES FOR MOSCOW  
NOVEMBER 24 TO NEGOTIATE DIVISION OF BARENTS SEA  
CONTINENTAL SHELF, HAS BEEN GIVEN VERY STRICT  
INSTRUCTIONS NOT REPEAT NOT TO ALLOW ITSELF TO  
BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF PACKAGE  
DEAL. VIBE REFERRED TO RUMORS IN OSLO THAT  
GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF  
PACKAGE AND SAID THESE WERE TOTALLY FALSE.

2. HEAD OF DELEGATION AND CHIEF OF MFA'S LEGAL  
DIVISION, KJELL ELIASSEN, AN OLD MOSCOW HAND, IS  
AUTHORIZED ONLY TO DISCUSS A BOUNDARY BASED ON  
EQUIDISTANT PRINCIPLE SET FORTH IN 1958  
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CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION. SOVIETS ARE EXPECTED  
TO INVOKE ALL MANNER OF "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES"

(CITING STRATEGIC, LAND MASS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS) TO JUSTIFY MOVING THE DEMARCATION LINE WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE. IN THE NORWEGIAN VIEW, "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" CITED BY THE CONVENTION REFER ONLY TO GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE SOME REDRAWING OF THE MEDIAN LINE FOR THE SAKE OF EQUITY. ELIASSEN IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS ANY "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" BEYOND GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS AND WILL BREAK OFF TALKS IF SOVIETS TRY TO INVOLVE HIM IN DISCUSSION OF PACKAGE DEAL.

3. VIBE DENIED THAT STORTINGMAN HELUM'S RECENT PROPOSAL THAT USSR AND NORWAY JOINTLY EXPLOIT THE AREA ON EACH SIDE OF A DEMARCATION LINE HAD ANY OFFICIAL SANCTION. HE CLAIMED THIS WAS A PET IDEA OF HELUM'S AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER WERE FURIOUS SINCE THEY FEAR THAT THIS PROPOSAL, BY STORTINGMAN KNOWN AS ONE OF LABOR PARTY'S LEADING EXPERTS ON OIL POLICY, MAY BE SEEN BY SOVIETS AS A SIGNAL. IT WAS CLEAR VIBE WAS PERSONALLY IRRITATED BY PROPOSAL WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE POORLY TIMED AND CALCULATED TO UNDERCUT STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL, LEGAL APPROACH WHICH NORWAY INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE DRILLING IN AREA OF DEMARCATION LINE, VIBE REFERRED TO BOUNDARY DELIMITATION AGREEMENTS WITH BRITISH AND DANES. HE SAID THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS MIGHT WELL INCLUDE SIMILAR "UNITIZATION" CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR CONSULTATION REGARDING EXPLOITATION AND APPROPRIATION OF PROCEEDS IN CASES WHERE MINERAL DEPOSITS STRADDLE THE BOUNDARY LINE. NORWEGIANS ASSUME THAT ANY AGREEMENT WORKED OUT DELINEATING FISHERY AREAS WILL HAVE TO COINCIDE WITH DEMARCATION LINE WORKED OUT FOR THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

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5. IN ADDITION TO ELIASSEN, NORWEGIAN DELEGATION INCLUDES MFA'S POLAR ADVISER OLAV BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN (ALMOST OMITTED LEST HIS PRESENCE SIGNAL WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL CONDITIONS), PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AUGUST FLEISCHER, HEAD OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S SECOND DIVISION NILS BOLSET, HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S 4TH DIVISION PER TRESSELT, INDUSTRY MINISTRY DIVISION CHIEF OLA WATTNE, NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR KAARE LUNDQUIST, STATE OIL DIREC-

TORATE SECTION CHIEF EGIL BERGSAGER, AND FISHING  
DIRECTORATE'S FISHERY ADVISER, ALBERT STROM.  
BYRNE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. KUCHEL.

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